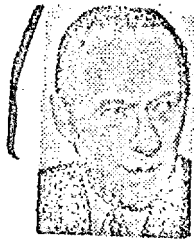


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STATINTL



BOB CONSIDINE

Repeat Of Olympics Massacre?

Charles Collingwood said on Walter Cronkite's CBS News the other night he had been informed by "a reliable Palestinian" that suicidal-type Arab guerrilla cells have been formed in this country. Their mission, it was said, was to war on prominent American Jews who are helping Israel. The implication of the report was that the U. S. might soon be in for a repeat of the fanatical happening at the Munich Olympics.

Since there is good reason to believe that the FBI and the CIA know at least as much about plans of this magnitude as does CBS, this might have been the reason behind President Nixon's hurried assurances to Prime Minister Meir in the wake of the bloody Olympics incident. The President assured Mrs. Meir that the U. S. was instituting special measures for the protection of American Jews and visiting Israeli groups.

The irony to all this is that the U. S. has been bearing most of the expense of keeping the displaced Palestine people alive and an entity. The Israeli government will not permit them to return to the towns and farms from which they fled in Israel's war of liberation. If that happened, it would be something like the U. S. inviting about 750,000 anti-Americans to come here to live.

As for the bleeding hearts of the Arab world, they have done little or nothing to better the lot of the displaced persons. Jordan's King Hussein has risked his neck by fighting, and beating, the militant arm of the Palestinians. Most of the other Arab countries have encouraged that arm and, if the Collingwood report pans out, will be found to have financed and equipped the attacks on U. S. soil.

What will we do if these fanatics spring up in the U. S.? Hard to guess. But one prays that we learned something from the blunders of the Munich police whose philosophy was, in effect, "Don't mind shooting the hostages; they'll die anyway if taken out of Germany." There must be a better way of coming to the rescue.

The better way, of course, is to nail them

before they can strike. And send them to the moon on Apollo 17.

In the meantime, just to be doubly safe, guards should be assigned to two of the best known Americans in the world: Mark Spitz and Bobby Fischer.

NOTHING RELATED TO SPORTS could be worse than the Munich slaughters, but the slaying of eight persons at the Fountain Valley Golf Club at St. Croix, Virgin Islands, runs a grisly second, at least. Think of it, unthinkable as it must have been: happy mixed foursome has just finished 18 holes at the magnificent layout; they are going to their car when suddenly they are herded into a shaded patio and shot to death, along with four club employees. Three other employees were wounded. The loot, including that in the pockets of the dead golfers and in the club's cash register, came to less than \$1,000.

At a swank Puerto Rican golf course not long ago a foursome of men was held up while on a green, relieved of its cash, watches and rings, and allowed to play on. The gunmen escaped into the nearby rough and out-of-bounds.

What's the answer to this development? Helicopter patrols? Pill-boxes?

MEANWHILE, the federal government has cracked down on two hardened criminals, Father Philip Berrigan and Sister Elizabeth McAlister. The priest has been sentenced to two years in jail and the nun to a year and a day. They are among the tens of millions of Americans who don't like the war in Vietnam.

They were sentenced, on the testimony of an informer with a long criminal record, who had many gifts and privileges showered on him by the FBI, for smuggling a few letters in and out of an earlier prison. The informer was the carrier and perhaps the provocateur. The "crime" is no longer a crime. Federal prisoners are now permitted to receive and send uncensored mail.

Still at large are two other prominent Americans who are opposed to the war in Vietnam: Sen. George McGovern and President Richard Nixon.